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A

LECTURE

INTRODUCTORY TO THE COURSE

ON THE

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

DELIVERED AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL,

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SESSION

1842--3.

BY DR. HODGKIN.

LONDON:
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LECTURE,

&c. &c.

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GENTLEMEN—

It is with mixed, and in some degree with conflicting feelings, to which it is very difficult for me to give expression in words, that I find myself placed before you on the present occasion. After an interval of upwards of five years, I find myself, by the flattering invitation of the Heads of this School, again in the peculiarly interesting situation of one who is to take a part in the important functions of Medical Education. "*Accingor rursus;*"—and I trust that I need not add, "*haud numine nostro.*" I cannot but be struck with the remarkable coincidence, that it was in this very theatre, between twenty and thirty years ago, that I listened to the first Introductory Lecture in the course of my own pupilage, delivered by the late Henry Cline, jun., who on that very day himself resumed his labours as a Teacher in this School, from which the state of his health had long removed him. The recollection of that truly talented man, so prematurely cut off, reminds me of his venerable Father, who for many years sustained the honour of St. Thomas's Hospital, by some of the most valuable and practical Lectures which perhaps have ever been delivered. Much as there is to command our respect in the name of Cline—in the merits of those who bore it—we cannot but be reminded, that Henry Cline, sen. was the honoured preceptor of another great man, whose more recent death is yet lamented by his Professional Brethren, and whose brightest hours, as a Teacher, were spent in *this* theatre, in which it is at once an honour and a source of diffidence to feel myself called upon to address you. If the remembrance of departed Worthies is calculated to animate both Teachers and Pupils who now occupy those places which know them no more, what must be our common feeling when we still see amongst us the living Representative of the Clines—the former pupil of the three great men whom I have mentioned—one of the most learned, as well as talented, of the existing members of our Profession—again resuming his post in this School, and infusing a new energy into its operations. Need I tell you, that it is the master-mind of Joseph Henry Green which has co-operated with able and zealous colleagues in planning and carrying out those arrangements to which it is my duty to call your attention, and that it is his resumption of the active duties of a Teacher which we must all hail with signal pleasure and satisfaction.

The science of Medicine—which term I here employ in its most extensive signification—like every other branch of human science, is progressive in its character; and in proportion as it becomes enriched with facts and principles by which it may be rendered increasingly available in the divine art of healing, does it necessarily offer a greater task to the Teacher as well as to the Learner. In former times, the course of Medical study was much shorter than it is at present, and several chairs in the same school were held by one individual. The schools themselves were, at the same time, much fewer in number than they are at present. Not only have new schools arisen in the ancient seats of Medical learning, but in most of the important provincial towns there now exist schools and teachers of great merit; and a division of labour in the art of teaching, unknown in former periods, has been extensively introduced. In the modifications which the School of St. Thomas's Hospital has now received, this plan of operation has been carried out somewhat further. It has not merely been the care of those who planned the new arrangements of this School, to provide that, as heretofore, the chairs should be filled by competent Teachers, but an effort has been made to take advantage of the talent assembled in this metropolis, to secure the somewhat novel advantage, that, in almost each department, some special part of the course of instruction shall be given by an individual distinguished by the success and originality with which he has cultivated some particular subject. The intensity of interest is necessarily increased when the hearer listens to the announcement of views and facts proceeding from the very lips of him whose perseverance and sagacity have been exercised in the field of original research, in which he has succeeded in gathering fruits to enrich the common storehouse. The mind follows the steps by which difficulties have been surmounted ; and a kind of sympathy must be felt with the inquirer himself, as he has advanced to his conclusions, which must stamp them at once with accuracy and permanency upon the memory. Pleasure and benefit are experienced at the time; and it cannot fail to be a source of gratifying reflection, in future years, to revert to occasions of this description.

After listening for many weeks in succession to the same Lecturer, however excellent he may be, it is difficult to sustain the same degree of attention throughout; and in practice, as well as in theory, it is found that the introduction of occasional variety is a great help to the interest of the student, to whom it affords almost as much relief as to the Lecturers themselves. You must all of you have been sensible of the great difference of interest which is experienced between the reading of a Monograph, and a systematic Treatise: the one will generally be read from beginning to end without difficulty; but the other, however excellent the style of the author, will sooner or later be found to satiate, and then it is laid aside as a mere book of reference. As the same principle may doubtless be applied to a Course of Lectures, I cannot but flatter myself that the method now introduced by the Managers of this School will not merely attract attention by its novelty, but sustain it to your advantage, by its practical and evident utility.

In the department of Special Anatomy and Physiology, the Directors of the School have been fortunate in securing the valuable assistance of R. D. Grainger, whose long-tried and justly-esteemed abilities as a Teacher are too well known to admit of any comments from me in this place; except that I may be allowed to explain some of the grounds which may not be so familiar to all of you, which render his acceptance of the post peculiarly calculated to carry out the plan which I have just explained. My friend Grainger has not only published a valuable work on the subject of General Anatomy, but has pursued, by original inquiries, that important branch of Physiology which relates to the functions of the Nervous system; and is still carrying on minute anatomical inquiries in Comparative Anatomy, for the purpose of elucidating Human Physiology.

In close relation to this subject, I must next mention, that Dr. Martin Barry has kindly yielded to my solicitation, that he would deliver a few Lectures on that peculiarly interesting part of the Reproductive function which has of late been successfully investigated by Foreign Physiologists, with whose labours he is well acquainted; but whom he has to a great degree eclipsed, by his own more extended and accurate researches, which have been justly rewarded by the gold medal of the Royal Society. When you shall have heard from his own lips the explanations which he will afford, and seen the demonstrations which he will submit to your individual inspection, you will understand, by experience, better than I can hope to make you do by words, the great superiority of this personal communication over the best written or second-hand instruction. I need scarcely add, that the subject of Dr. Barry's Lectures, whilst highly interesting to the general Anatomist and Physiologist, must be peculiarly so to those Gentlemen who may be engaged in that department of the Profession which is taught in the Lectures of Dr. Cape.

These signal advantages for instruction in Physiology will be followed up by a Course of Lectures on Comparative Anatomy; which Dr. Merion has most liberally undertaken to deliver for the benefit of the Pupils attending this School.

The subject of Chemistry has already been taught in this School, with a richness of illustration, which—thanks to the liberality of Dr. Leeson!—rivals the theatre of the Royal Institution, the excellence of whose apparatus, in the hands of a Davy and a Faraday, has acquired the most extended reputation. This richness of illustration has been rendered availing by the most complete practical as well as theoretical knowledge of the subject. To these advantages a further addition will now be made; as Dr. Leeson has invited to co-operate with him H. Parnell, who has distinguished himself as the Associate of Professor Graham, and has been himself personally engaged in elucidating the mysteries of Organic Chemistry. Under the superintendence of these able Teachers, the most valuable opportunities will be afforded to those who may desire to become practically acquainted with Chemical manipulation.

In the department of General Therapeutics and Materia Medica, Dr. Barker will have as his Associate, Dr. Wilks, who has devoted great attention to Practical Pharmacy, as well as to the principles on which the articles of the Materia Medica depend for their peculiar properties in affecting the living frame. I need only say, that he is treading in the same path with Professor Christison of Edinburgh; and that, as the relative and representative of a Haighton and a Blundell, he is regarded with esteem as well as hope by such as may remember those former ornaments of the Borough School.

The study of Botany is closely connected with the knowledge of a very important portion of Materia Medica; and I think that the Medical School of St. Thomas's Hospital may be justly congratulated in having secured as the Teacher in this department, R. D. Hoblyn, a gentleman who unites to an intimate knowledge of his subject the happy art of rendering it both intelligible and attractive.

I now come to the assistance which Dr. Barker and myself are to have the privilege of receiving, in teaching the important subjects which belong to the Course which I am now opening. There is no part of Physiology more intimately connected with the right understanding of Disease, and the proper application of curative means, than that which relates to the Nervous system; and there is no one in this country who has rendered such important service to this branch, whether we regard it in the abstract or in its applications, as my friend, Dr. Marshall Hall. To me, he appears to be no less remarkable for the happy connection and arrangement of the observations of his predecessors, than for his own original researches, by which this application has been brought about. I cannot add any thing to induce you more highly to appreciate the great advantage which we have obtained, in prevailing on Dr. Marshall Hall to consent to give that part of the Course which relates to the Pathology and Treatment of those diseases which have their seat in the Nervous system.

Quite on a par with this advantage is another which we have secured, in obtaining the co-operation of Dr. Gregory, in relation to a very important and very formidable group of diseases; namely, those which are comprehended in the term Exanthemata; of which Small-pox alone has been the cause of premature death to a large portion of the human race. Not only the writings of our Professional predecessors attest the awful mortality which it has occasioned, even in this country, but in our own days it has not ceased to cause dreadful ravages amongst some civilized but distant countries. It is, however, when introduced by civilized man amongst the unprotected and ignorant inhabitants of the forest and the desert, that it has proved the most destructive, and been the means of cutting off entire tribes. It cannot, therefore, be either uninteresting or unimportant to become acquainted with this formidable enemy, whether you are likely to meet with it as a sporadic disease in this country, or may have to contend with it as an epidemic in foreign climes. Thanks to the extension of Vaccination, there are, comparatively, few Medical men practising in London who have had personal opportunity of becoming acquainted with the various forms of this disease; but Dr. Gregory has been for many years connected with the Small-pox Hospital, and has, moreover, carefully studied the subject, as described by ancient and by foreign writers; and I believe that every important question that can possibly be started in connexion with it has received his careful attention and elucidation. The other exanthemata bear so close a relation to Small-pox, that, for the purposes of illustration, diagnosis, and treatment, it has seemed expedient that they should be treated of by the same Lecturer; and as they have, for the same reason, claimed the particular attention of Dr. Gregory, he has not been unwilling to go through this part of the Course.

In adverting to the more recent advances of our science, particular notice must be taken of two most important agents, which have greatly contributed to extend our knowledge, and open new views so far beyond the bounds of our previous knowledge, that they may be said almost to present a new character to the subject. I refer to the researches of the Microscopic Anatomist, and to those of the Organic Chemist. It is true that Leeuwenhoek, and Fontana, and Leiberkuhn, had made great discoveries, with comparatively imperfect instruments, and that they obtained glimpses at some of the most beautiful structural arrangements which have been more fully revealed by recent and better-furnished observers. Whilst some of these points remained forgotten, or overlooked, minute observers, who employed such compound microscopes as even the best opticians were able to supply, were, by the limits of these instruments, prevented from seeing those objects which now are studied with the most remarkable results. It is enough that I should allude to the researches of Bower in connection with Sir Everard Home, and to the exploded globular composition of muscle which they propagated—to the nearly similar view of that great anatomist and physiologist, J. F. Meckel—and to the early researches of the no less laborious and talented Milne Edwards—as examples of the inaccuracy introduced by optical deception. Into this field of inquiry my friend Joseph Jackson Lister had the merit of entering, with his attention steadily fixed on the best means of correcting the errors and increasing the powers of the instrument; and he has been rewarded by signal success, acknowledged by the opticians of Europe, who have produced the most satisfactory and valuable instruments, by carrying out the principles which he unfolded. The observations of J. J. Lister were first directed to vegetable structures; but at my own suggestion he took up the animal fluids and solids, to which my attention had been directed by doubts entertained regarding the globular theory of Sir Everard Home. Amongst the first results of this inquiry were the correction of some views regarding the structure of the corpuscules of the blood, and the recalling to notice the peculiarly beautiful and characteristic structure of voluntary muscle, which had previously been seen by Fontana, and figured in his work on the poison of the viper; though we were not aware of this fact until many months after the publication of our observations. Improved instruments brought numerous and persevering labourers into the field of research. Without attempting even to enumerate them, I shall merely glance at the results of those who have the most distinguished themselves. Amongst the first of these is Professor Eirenbergh, who has opened to our view a most interesting and numerous class of infusory animals, possessing peculiar and complicated organization. He has not merely figured the multitude of species which make almost every drop of stagnant water teem with animal life, but has shewn that entire strata, of sufficient extent to excite geological interest, are made up of the fossil remains of these minute creatures. Valentin and Purkinjee have followed up what Baer began, in regard to the obscure subject of the earliest periods of embryonic life; but even their researches have been surpassed by those of my friend Dr. Martin Barry, which, as I have already stated, have obtained for him the gold medal of the Royal Society. But his researches are only now in the course of progress; and his labours are not only directed to embryology, but also to the most obscure points in the structure of elementary tissues. His attention is in a particular manner directed to the blood: in connection with which subject, I must not omit to mention the rich collection of facts obtained by my friend G. Gulliver; who has examined and described the particles of the blood in very many species of animals, and has further enriched this branch of science by the publication of a translation of Jerber, with valuable additions of his own, regarding the microscopic characters of most of the tissues, and many of the secretions, produced in health and disease. It is perfectly obvious that these last researches bear directly upon our acquaintance with the various forms of disease; enabling us to distinguish mucus, pus, tuberculous matter, cancerous and fungoïd matter when broken down to a soft and puriform state, and also the material filling the cells of colloïd or gelatiniform cancer. We may even distinguish these several substances, though blended with each other; and thus arrive at distinctions which would defy the skill of the most expert organic chemists.

In alluding to the researches of microscopic observers, I must again call your attention to Dr. Leeson; who, though he has not as yet published any thing on the subject, has spared neither pains nor expense in the pursuit of it; and has been more successful than any other individual in exhibiting, by the aid of the oxy-hydrogen microscope, some of those extremely minute points of structural anatomy which had hitherto only been made visible by the help of the best achromatic compound microscopes. Though these objects are foreign to the subject of his own course, he has most kindly consented to give you the benefit of his admirable instruments for their exhibition.

Another important class of phænomena, brought to light by microscopic examination, is that of the delicate and incessant ciliary movements which are now shewn to take place on many internal and some external surfaces. As one of the first successful investigators in this branch, I must mention my friend Professor Sharpy, who several years ago detected them in the cloaks of the common muscle and other bivalve moluscs, and pointed out the important office which they perform, in producing those currents in the water in which the animals live, which are essential to the performance of their br~~o~~anchial respiration. The subsequent discovery of these same ciliary movements upon the mucous surface of the bronchial tubes serves to explain the mode in which redundant mucus may be rejected from the air-passages; and may also account for some part of the distress and danger occasioned by bronchial inflammation, in which these movements are either suspended, or rendered ineffectual by the tenacious character of the morbid secretion with which the bronchial tubes may be loaded. By the same mode of microscopic investigation we have been taught, through the researches of my friend Bowman, the precise mode and seat of that morbid condition of the liver, known by the name of "the fat liver": and the same laborious inquirer has thrown great light on the intimate structure of the kidney, as well as on some points connected with muscular fibre, to which tissue I have already alluded. The points to which I have now adverted will be sufficient to demonstrate the importance of the discoveries which the construction of powerful microscopes has placed it in our power to make in physiology and pathology. To this last, in particular, which bears so close a relation to the subjects on which I shall have to address you in future lectures, it promises to render very great assistance; and I know of no field which at the present time offers more promise of reward to the scientific inquirer, than the examination of the minute changes which precede and accompany those grosser changes with which our eyes are already acquainted, as the results of disease.

With respect to the researches of the organic chemist, to which I have alluded as the second remarkable recent coadjutor to physiological and pathological investigation, it will be almost enough for me to remind you of the extraordinary sensation which has just been produced by the work of Leibig[*]: but though I am ready to admit that the labours of this distinguished chemist merit our gratitude and respect, I believe it would not be just that he should engross such a share of praise as would deprive of their due several chemists of our own, as well as other countries, whose labours ought not to be thrown into the shade. Were I to allude to no other secretion than that of the kidneys, it might be shewn that the chemical investigation of this fluid has added greatly to our scientific and practical knowledge, and really given to the indications afforded by this fluid that importance which the most impudent empirics once arrogantly assigned to it.

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[*] I cannot omit this opportunity of expressing the pleasure with which I observed how completely the opinions conceived and ably developed by the Professor of Giessen confirm the views which I ventured to offer in my Thesis, published in Edinburgh in 1823, as will appear from the following extract:—

"Quoniam enim intimam corporum compositionem, rationem scilicet, et proportionem, quibus minutissimæ particulæ, rerum primordia, vel corpora prima Lucretii inter se junguntur, mutatam esse manifestum est, et cùm porrò talium mutationum, nisi sint in corporibus animantium peractæ, investigationem chemia omnium pace sibi sumat, declarare non dubito, etiam in vivo corpore has investigationes chemici esse.—Et sanè mihi videtur hanc meam sententiam non leviter esse confirmatam, eo quòd ex chemiâ ipsâ præcipuè cognoscamus, istas fieri mutationes, quarum rationem dare, ad chemiam non pertinere prædicatur. Quippe cùm earum materiarum, quæ variis animalium organis subjiciuntur, et quæ in iis mutationem subeunt, elementa, antequàm in corpus accipiuntur vi ejus attractionis, quæ a chemicis affinitas vocatur, inter se retineantur, necesse est ut ad eam vim opprimendam validior alia, et chemicis facultatibus pollens, in corpore insit; et præthereà, cùm prior saltem, et verisimillime altera quoque vis constans sit, necesse est ut effectus constantes sint, et certis legibus obedientes. Nonne physiologi in errore versantur, vel ex unâ parte chemiam nimis rejiciendo, vel contrà, varias mutationes, quæ in vivis corporibus perficiuntur, jam notis chemiæ legibus, in corporibus carentibus vitâ agentibus, explicare conando? Has leges ad supra dictas functiones explicandas non valere, lubentissimè concedo. Hæc autem impotentia probat solummodò scientiam ad summum perfectionis suæ nondum pervenisse. Quòd si etiamnum calorici, et vis galvanicæ facultates ignorarentur, et phænomena ex his pendentia chemico cuivis obvia venirent, non modo rationem dare non valeret, sed cognitas theorias oppugnari fateretur.

"Nonne in pari penè difficultate, quoad varias vitæ functiones, adhuc versamur? At, me judice, nondum satis tali ratione physiologi vitæ vires contemplati sunt."

In order to promote the investigation of this subject, I proposed to the Medical ~~Lecturer~~ Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at its Meeting at Bristol in 1836, a chemical inquiry into the composition of secretions and the organs producing them. In the Paper which I contributed to the Association the following year, the subject was further developed; and many of the illustrations therein adduced, are such as Leibig has explained.—See Seventh Report of the British Association.

Although, as you will doubtless admit, from the illustrative examples which I have just adduced, that we owe very much to the discoveries of living labourers in our science, and although you will perceive that much remains to tempt you to tread in their footsteps, you must not suppose that the labours of our predecessors are to be rejected, as superseded and useless. On the contrary, wherever they have correctly detailed facts, they may be regarded as having laid the firm foundations of that structure which we are still engaged in rearing; and it is to their statements, rendered incontestable by the sanction of succeeding time, that we must appeal for much that is most important in actual practice. Whilst notions and theories respecting disease have varied in the most remarkable manner, from the time of the Father of Medicine to the present day; whilst doctrine after doctrine has succeeded each other in gaining converts and receiving applause, soon to be laid aside, and remembered only as a matter of history, so that, to the non-professional man, and even to the student who may turn his attention to this part of the history of our science, it may well appear that *medicina ars conjecturalis est*, and that the assertion of its Professors are to be received with perfect scepticism; we may, on the other hand, point to the descriptions of disease, as furnished by accurate observers from the most remote times, for the proof, that whilst Nature has been consistent with herself in her abnormal and unhealthy, as well as in her physiological phænomena, the same symptoms have in all ages been noticed; and practitioners, however discordant in their doctrines, have obtained success by somewhat similar means. Hence, though new facts of great value have been added to our stock of knowledge; though most important additions have been made to the list of our Materia Medica, we have nevertheless the same diseases to contend with, for which our forefathers prescribed; and though we may desire to be more successful than they, we must still employ analogous means, but direct them with greater accuracy. I have made these remarks to warn you against the possible error of paying too little regard to the writings which time has sanctioned; and against being too much engrossed by productions of the present day, in which it must often happen, that what is new is not true.

I am aware that it is usual, at the opening Lecture of a Medical Session, to make allusion to the duties and responsibilities which await the Student on his entering the Medical Profession—including both those which more peculiarly belong to him during the period devoted to the acquisition of Professional knowledge, and to those which are of longer duration, and commence on his entering into actual practice—when the well-being and even existence of a larger or smaller portion of the community will at times, under the most critical circumstances, become dependent on the mode in which he discharges the duty which he has offered himself to the public as undertaking to perform. I cannot suppose that these considerations have not already been urged upon you, and received at least as much attention as any recommendation of mine could induce you to give them: and though I might place before you the attractive examples of those whom the diligent and conscientious discharge of their various duties, as Students, has rewarded with distinction for their attainments—with success in the lucrative exercise of their art—with the esteem of their brethren, and the confidence and grateful attachment of the public—to which we cannot doubt that the still more grateful reward of a fair share of self-satisfaction, very different from pride, must have been added—I regard such a course as altogether unnecessary on the present occasion. Permit me, however, to observe, that very important results are contingent on the mode in which the Student's part of the Professional career is past. With but few exceptions, the character of the future Practitioner is determined by it. All the advantages of connection and patronage, with which some may enter upon practice, may be lost;—or the difficulties and trials which attend their absence, and at times occasion almost overwhelming discouragement, may be surmounted, and nobly triumphed over.

It must not be forgotten, that Medical Science, like every other, is progressive, and that within a comparatively few years great and most important advances have been made. You cannot desire that the work should rest stationary in your hands. We look to you, in your turn, to perform the part which has devolved on some of those who have preceded you; and it must be the ardent wish of even the most accomplished Teacher, that he may be surpassed by his pupils; and that, when he can no longer add to the treasures in the temple of Science, or watch over their safety when in custody there, the most precious offerings of the succeeding generation may be brought in by the hands of those whom he may rejoice in regarding as his sons in science. This remark is not designed to promote the express search after novelties and discoveries: this would be something like substituting the vague experiments of the alchymist in search of the means of making gold, or preparing an elixir of life for the legitimate study of chemical science. Discoveries may come unsought, and important observations present themselves, to those who with perseverance and attention are pursuing the most systematic and regular course of study.

The éclat of a particular Teacher may give lustre to a School; but its greatest and most lasting reputation must depend on the acquirements of its pupils, as a body. I might appeal to the history of every truly-distinguished Medical School for the confirmation of this remark. It will be sufficient for me to remind you, that the University of Leyden, though it long enjoyed the advantage of having a Teacher of the extraordinary talent and eloquence of Boerhaave, is at least as much indebted, for the extent and duration of its celebrity, to his pupils, Van Sweton and Haller. The School of Corvisart has derived less reputation from the lectures which he gave, than from the pupils which it produced—Bayle, Laennec, Rostan, and Bielard. All the lustre which Students can shed upon their *alma mater* is abundantly reflected upon themselves in return. The School of St. Thomas's Hospital has already produced its Fothergills, its Coopers, its Haughtons, its Motts, its Sanders, and its Egertons; but I would fain hope that, in you, its brightest stars are yet to arise.

In giving a Course of Lectures on a practical subject, it appears to me that it is the duty of the Teacher to adopt a middle course, between that of adducing almost every authority from the most remote to the present time, and that of stating the subject merely as the Teacher views it himself, without reference to predecessors or cotemporaries. There was never, perhaps, a more popular Lecturer than the late Professor Broussais, at the time when his peculiar views were most in vogue. He joined to remarkable facility of speech a most happy talent of illustration, and he inspired his pupils with an enthusiastic admiration of his doctrines. I heard him tell his applauding class that they might reject all the authors who had preceded him—that they had mystified the subject, and loaded the science of medicine with what he was pleased to call Ontology, when they treated of particular diseases—that pupils had nothing to do, but to make themselves acquainted with his own, which he was pleased to call the Physiological doctrine, and with this key to disease to study the derangements of particular organs; and these derangements he regarded almost exclusively as mere inflammation, acute or chronic. By adopting this course, he excluded much of a most important character, both in a scientific and practical point of view; but he gave a stimulus to inquiry, and had the merit of producing zealous and original pupils. The opposite error consists in making the display of a profusion of erudition, in the midst of which the Lecturer himself finds it difficult to steer his course; whilst a pupil must be bewildered, and wholly unable, without the most extraordinary and retentive memory, to carry away from the theatre a connected view of the subject. To me it appears, that the great aim of the Teacher must be to render clear and intelligible the facts connected with this subject; and to introduce, in conjunction with them, just so much of the opinions and doctrines which have been entertained regarding them, as to enable the Student, whilst keeping up his concurrent course of reading, to accumulate the knowledge which he will thence derive in a systematic and coherent form. From my own experience, I am well aware that labour and time may be lost by taking up really valuable authors without the previous knowledge of the facts of which the author treats, and the systematic view of the subject of which he may have ably but partially treated. To remove this difficulty, and to aid the Student in the course of his instruction, are, I conceive, the chief objects to be attained by the Lecturer.

You will doubtless expect that I should now define the objects of the Course which, with this principle in view, will be delivered by my colleagues and myself. Since it is the aim of Medical education to teach the art of curing disease, the Lecturer on the Practice of Physic has, in reality, to put the Student in the way of bringing the different branches of knowledge, which he has been acquiring with the assistance of other Teachers, to bear upon this main object. This differs only from the course on the Practice of Surgery in the conventional distinction which has been drawn between certain classes of disease, in consequence of the mode of investigation and treatment to which they may be subjected. In a demarkation which is conventional, rather than inherent, in the nature of things, the boundary line may be variously placed. In France, the Courses of Lectures on the Practice of Surgery and the Practice of Physic are distinguished by the designation of Internal and External Pathology; but you will perceive that it must be impossible practically to adhere to a division of the subject consistent with these terms. Thus, the surgeon treats of calculus in the bladder, whilst the physician treats of calculus in the biliary ducts: both affections are internal, though the one admits of relief by manual operation, of which the other is insusceptible. Again, the one will treat of sore-throat, if it proceed from the poison of syphilis; whilst he would be stepping out of his province to treat sore-throat resulting from the poison of scarlet-fever; yet the first may be cured by internal remedies alone; whilst the latter may be fatal, unless relieved by remedies directly applied, and requiring manual skill for their efficient employment. If it be difficult to define in words the limits which, in the teaching as well as in the practice of the two departments, are to separate them from each other, we may trust to that conventional usage by which the distinction has been made. It must however be obvious, that in laying down the principles upon which each of these departments depends, there must be much that is common to both. Both have to contend with inflammation in its various forms; both must regard the constitutional as well as local derangement to which it gives rise; both have to encounter disease arising from specific poisons; both have to meet with a formidable class of malignant diseases, by which both must, in the present state of our knowledge at least, submit to be certainly mastered; though the surgeon may occasionally have the satisfaction of making a short and successful end of the matter, by dexterously using his knife, and cutting the Gordian knot.

If there be this similarity in the diseases of which the surgeon and the physician have to treat, the same principles for cure or mitigation must be kept in view by both: and although the surgeon has often to call in the assistance of mechanical ingenuity, and that manual dexterity which commands admiration and respect sufficient to counterbalance the terrors of his dreaded knife, he must likewise also have the assistance of the same articles of the Materia Medica which the physician employs; and cannot hope for success unless he attend to those principles of diet, and to the management of many circumstances connected with the patient, on which the successful practice of the physician so essentially depends. In the application of these several means, both have to be guided by the same physiological principles. These principles cannot be comprehended, and the diseases, to the treatment of which they are to be applied, cannot be distinguished or understood, without anatomical knowledge. The articles of the Materia Medica cannot be properly studied, nor their mutual influence on each other nor their action on the living body understood, without a knowledge of chemistry; to the great importance of which, in its organic branch, I have already more particularly alluded. The Lecturers on the Practical department of Surgery and Medicine have, therefore, constantly to refer to these elementary branches of knowledge; and are equally interested with the Professors of those departments in urging their importance, and earnestly recommending them to the zealous and persevering attention of the Student. It can scarcely be required of me to press this recommendation in any thing more than in general terms; yet I may be allowed to dwell for a few moments upon the subject of Anatomy.

This has been divided into three parts; each of which have acquired so much interest and importance, that in some Medical Schools they have been made the objects of separate chairs, having the names of Special Anatomy, General Anatomy, and Morbid Anatomy. The first, which treats of the form and relative situation of parts and of systems of organs as locally situated rather than chemically constituted, is doubtless a great and most important division of anatomy. It is essential to the physician: and to the surgeon it is the key to his most important operations. To him, in fact, it is what an accurate chart is to the mariner steering his course on the most dangerous coast. In the acquisition of this branch, the pupil is constantly repaid by the exposure of parts which his scalpel brings to light: and in the increasing facility which he must be sensible he acquires from the daily use of this instrument, he must be conscious that he is cultivating that manual dexterity which he is ambitious to exercise in the future practice of his profession. It is therefore easy to understand how generally it is appreciated by the Student; and how fascinating it becomes, notwithstanding the repugnance which generally attends the first practical application to it. Far be it from me to undervalue Special Anatomy, or to suggest any diminution in the attention which it receives, whilst I am endeavouring to raise in your estimation the importance both of General and Pathological Anatomy. General Anatomy makes us acquainted with the intimate structure of the different tissues. It is impossible to be a good physiologist without a knowledge of it: it lends important assistance to operative surgery; and in the study of medicine, it is the key to some very important phænomena connected with constitutional derangement. It immediately conducts to Pathological Anatomy; which, inasmuch as it teaches the derangements of structure occasioned by disease, necessarily requires the previous knowledge of the healthy condition of these tissues. When you consider what pathological anatomy really is—that it makes us acquainted with those very derangements which are induced by the diseases which it is our object to remove or mitigate—that these derangements are, to a great degree, the disease itself, and that the symptoms under which the patient is suffering are the indications of the existence of these derangements—you will perceive that it is scarcely possible to overrate the importance of pathological anatomy in the study of medicine; and you will readily understand the great advances that have been made of late years, during which this branch has been cultivated with increased ardour in this and other countrses. But pathological anatomy may be overrated. Great and general as is the light which it throws on medical science, there are some points which, in the present state of our knowledge at least, it fails to illuminate. Those deviations from the healthy structure which arrest our attention in the careful inspection of disease must have been preceded by changes so minute and mollicular in their character as to escape our detection, aided by any of the means which we at present possess; and could they be detected, they would not necessarily reveal to us the causes by which they were induced. Again, there are symptoms, which, though proceeding from local derangement, have not so direct and manifest a connection with the affected part as to render their mutual relation obvious without the careful observation of the living as well as of the dead subject. Again, though pathological anatomy is of the highest importance to diagnosis, it is incompetent, in many cases, directly to suggest the best means of treatment. We may learn from it where disease is situated, what its unchecked progress must conduct to, and what is the kind and extent of improvement which we may desire to see brought about.

But the skilful direction of the means by which this end is to be gained must be learnt by a different branch of study. The symptoms of disease, and the operations of remedies, must be investigated, not only before the death of the patient, but in those cases in which the happy result precludes an appeal to morbid anatomy. It is the combined result of the study of disease during life and of the means employed for its mitigation, together with the facts brought to light by the pathological anatomist, which it is the object of the

Lecturer on the Practice of Physic to place in an intelligible manner before his pupils. He receives them furnished with a knowledge of the individual subjects at which a glance has been taken; and having taught their combination in just relation with each other, as well as their application in practice—having set before them the various forms of disease, explained their nature, their tendencies, the modes of management which theory and practice have sanctioned or suggested, as well as the dangers to be anticipated, and to be carefully guarded against—he prepares his pupils for the ultimate and most important course of Clinical Medicine. I say 'ultimate,' because it is to Clinical Medicine that the accomplished Student will pay his chief attention, when thoroughly furnished by all his preliminary studies, and about to enter upon the practice of his profession. But I am far from recommending that Clinical Medicine should be neglected until this late period: on the contrary, whilst I cannot but condemn *premature practice* confided to the hands of those who have not even commenced the regular study of their profession, I regard it as of very great importance that Medical Students should become personally acquainted with the symptoms of disease in the living subject, at the same time that the rationale of these symptoms is being explained to them. It is obvious that the great facility for obtaining this advantage renders a large hospital the proper place for a Medical School.

Having, I trust in an intelligible manner, pointed out the limits which define the subjects destined to be taught from this chair, I might now describe the course which it is intended to pursue, and point out the principal sub-divisions which it will be expedient to make: but you will have perceived that a wide range is included, and that it would be impossible to compress such an exposition as you would wish to receive, or I should like to offer, into the limits of this Lecture: and I shall merely observe, that so far as is compatible with the subject, pathological anatomy will be made the basis of the course which we have now commenced.

In conclusion, let me assure you, on behalf of my Colleagues and myself, that it is our individual as well as our united wish to aid you in the course which, I doubt not, you have formed the resolution to take; and that we desire to do so, not merely in performing the part which may be assigned to us when we meet you in this theatre, but also by more personal intercourse, when you may require explanation or advice.

As for myself, I feel that I have abundant cause to ask your reciprocal kindness and indulgence. After more than five years absence from the post of Teacher, I feel that it is no light thing to enter upon a Course which I have never before had to deliver; and which, but a few months since, I had no idea that I should ever be likely to undertake. The labour therefore will, of necessity, not be small; but it will become itself a pleasure, if rewarded by your approbation, and the gratifying conviction that it may have contributed to your advancement in that Profession, of which I ardently desire that you may become, not only useful members, but, in many instances, the cultivators and the ornaments.

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